

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are pending in the application. In the final Office Action of July 28, 2006, the Examiner rejected claims 1-27 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being unpatentable over *Bianco, et al.* Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and address the Examiner's disposition below.

Claims 1, 12, 22, and 27 have been amended to clarify that the information processing apparatus outputs a request for issuing a person identification certificate to the person identification certificate authority, when the information processing apparatus determines that the person identification certificate has not been received from the person identification certificate authority and stored locally in a local storage device of the information processing apparatus.

Applicants' independent claims 1, 12, 22, and 27, each as amended, each claim subject matter relating to an information processing apparatus that performs person authentication and a person identification certificate authority that issues person identification certificates. A person authentication process is performed by comparing a template extracted from a person identification certificate and user input sampling information. The information processing apparatus outputs a request for issuing a person identification certificate to the person identification certificate authority, when the information processing apparatus determines that the person identification certificate has not been received from the person identification certificate authority and stored locally in a local storage device of the information processing apparatus.

Thus, the information processing apparatus determines whether the person identification certificate has been received from the person identification certificate authority and stored locally in a local storage device of the information processing apparatus. If the information processing apparatus determines that the certificate has not been received and stored locally, then it outputs a request for issuing a person identification certificate to the person identification certificate authority.

This is clearly unlike *Bianco*, fails to disclose or suggest an information processing apparatus that determines whether a person identification certificate has been received from a person identification certificate authority and stored locally in a local storage device of the information processing apparatus, prior to retrieving the certificate. As noted previously, *Bianco* stores all templates at a remote server. In *Bianco*, every biometric device obtains a template from a server. Nowhere does *Bianco* suggest an information processing apparatus that makes a determination of whether a certificate has been received and stored locally, prior to requesting the certificate from a remote location. Instead, *Bianco* always requests a template from a remote

server. Thus, for at least this reason, *Bianco* fails to disclose or suggest claims 1, 12, 22, and 27.

In the Office Action dated July 28, 2006, page 2-3, the Examiner correctly states that *Bianco* includes a biometric server 104 and a separate computer 208, which communicate over a network 114. As discussed above, in *Bianco*, every biometric device obtains a template from a remote server. However, the Examiner argues that it would have been obvious, based on the teachings of *Bianco*, to determine whether a certificate has been received and stored locally prior to retrieving the certificate. Applicants disagree. There is no such teaching or suggestion in *Bianco*. Nowhere does *Bianco* suggest performing the assertive step of making a determination of whether a certificate has been received and stored locally prior to retrieving the certificate. This functionality is simply not performed by *Bianco*'s methods and systems.

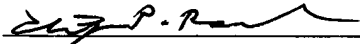
Claims 2-11, 13-21, and 23-26 depend directly or indirectly from claims 1, 12, or 22 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons that claims 1, 12, and 22 are allowable.

Applicants respectfully submit the rejection has been overcome and request that it be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that claims 1-27 are patentable. It is therefore submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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